

### REMARKS

The Patent Office is requiring restriction to one of the following allegedly distinct inventions, characterized by the Patent Office as:

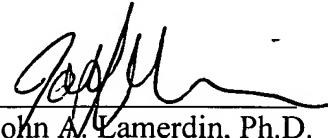
- Group I        Claims 14-17, drawn to a construct comprising a HCV self-replicating cDNA;
- Group II        Claim 18, drawn to a construct comprising SEQ ID NO:17;
- Group III       Claims 19-21, drawn to a cell line;
- Group IV        Claims 22-39, drawn to a method for *in vitro* identifying a compound to inhibit a viral replication; and
- Group V        Claims 40-42, drawn to a method for selectively affecting a cell infection.

In response to the Restriction Requirement, applicants hereby provisionally elect, without traverse, Group IV, claims 22-39, drawn to a method for *in vitro* identifying a compound to inhibit a viral replication, for prosecution at this time. Applicants reserve the right to file subsequent applications addressing non-elected subject matter.

Although it is believed that no fee is due in connection with the filing of the instant Response. However, if any fee is due, please charge required fee to Deposit Account No. 19-3880 of the undersigned. Furthermore, if any extension of time is required, such extension is hereby petitioned for, and it is requested that any fee due for such an extension be charged to the above-stated Deposit Account.

Bristol-Myers Squibb Company  
Patent Department  
P.O. Box 4000  
Princeton, NJ 08543-4000  
(609) 252-3575

Respectfully submitted,

  
John A. Lamerdin, Ph.D.  
Attorney for Applicants  
Reg. No. 44,858

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